778 moved and hidden during the Bolshevist rule, had been set up again in the rear corner of the room, called "God's corner" (jumalnurkka). But on the stands of the icons there were also several other things which had no direct bearing on the Church belief. Such were, for instance, the twigs of willow trees which has been brought in at Palm Sunday and which were used to drive the herd out to the pasture on St. George's Day. In addition, there were various magic herbs which were used for making smoke to cure sicknesses, a piece of artus bread which was baked for Easter, a holiday egg, etc. Before the introduction of the kolkhoz system, the people used to keep in "God's corner" also the first and last sheaf of rye cut in the field.

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789 The Votes seem to have preserved up to the present day some traits of the belief in the special power of the trees. For Whitsuntide green birches were put in "God's corner," around the house and especially in front of the windows. These birches were used, as Prof. Rãnk thinks, not only for decoration, but probably also for scaring off the bad spirits who could be active at this time. The juniper was considered to have a special magic power. The people called the juniper "cross-tree," since on each juniper berry there is the sign of a cross; for this reason the juniper was believed to have the power to ward off any kind of evil. According to old customs, the farmer on St. George's Day pulled a juniper together with its roots, out of the earth and hung it in the attic of his house. This juniper protected the house against all evil, especially against lightning. The belief in the protective power of the juniper seems to be still alive among the people, since Prof. Rãnk found in a loft a big juniper branch stuck between the roof beams.